

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A head for a suction cleaner, the head comprising:

a. a lower housing portion;

b. an upper housing portion movable relative to the lower housing portion

between a closed position for use and an open position in which airflow passages within the head are opened from above, wherein the head is provided with at least one catch to retain the upper housing portion in the closed position and releasable to move the upper housing portion into the open position; and

c. a rotatably mounted tool element which is entirely exposed from above and in front of the tool element and readily removable when the upper housing portion is in the open position, wherein the tool element is directly driven by a drive mechanism comprising a drive belt having internal and external surfaces, wherein the drive belt does not pass around the tool element and the external surface directly engages the tool element, and wherein no portion of the drive mechanism is positioned above the tool element such that the tool element is readily removable in an upward direction through the open upper housing portion without disturbing the positioning of the drive mechanism.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 1 wherein the head does not include a sole plate.

5. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner of claim 1 wherein when the upper housing portion is in the closed position it defines, in combination with the lower housing portion, an airflow opening which in use is adjacent the ground.

6. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 5 wherein the tool element is located within the airflow opening.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein when the upper housing portion is in the open position airflow paths within the head are accessible for cleaning or maintenance.

9. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism is accessible for cleaning or maintenance when the upper housing portion is in the open position.

10. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 1 wherein the tool element is readily removable without the use of any tool.

11. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 9 further comprising a switch for control of the drive mechanism which is open when the upper housing portion is in the open position, such that the drive mechanism cannot be operated, and closed when the upper housing portion is in the closed position, such that the drive mechanism can be operated.

12. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 11 wherein the switch is activated by a protrusion on an inner surface of the upper housing portion which contacts the switch when the upper housing portion is moved to the closed position.

13. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 9 wherein the drive mechanism includes an electric motor within the head.

14. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 9 wherein the drive mechanism includes a turbine within the head and wherein said airflow paths include a path connecting the turbine.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism further includes a drive pinion provided on the tool element, and the drive belt is toothed on its external surface and engages with the drive pinion.

17. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 1 wherein a circumferential drive surface is provided on the tool element and the external surface of the belt frictionally engages the drive surface.

18. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 17 wherein the drive surface is a pulley and the external surface of the belt has a cross-section which cooperates with the pulley.

19. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism further includes an electric motor or a turbine that drives a pinion engaging the drive belt, wherein the pinion is connected to and extends axially from the motor or turbine.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 19 wherein the drive belt is toothed on its internal surface, passes around, and engages with the pinion.

22. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 19 wherein the pinion engages a toothed external surface of the drive belt.

23. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 17 wherein the drive mechanism further includes a motor or turbine having a drive wheel which frictionally engages the drive belt.

24. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism further includes a support wheel around which the drive belt also passes, and which holds the drive belt adjacent to and in engagement with the tool element.

25. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 24 wherein the support wheel is freely rotatable.

26. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to Claim 24 wherein the support wheel is a pinion.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A cleaning apparatus adapted for use with a suction cleaner, the cleaning apparatus including:

- a. a connector adapted to be removably connected to a wand of the suction cleaner;
- b. a lower housing portion secured to the connector and having ground engaging wheels;
- c. an upper housing portion secured to the connector, wherein the lower housing portion provides support for a rotatably mounted brush bar, and the upper housing portion is pivotable relative to the lower housing portion between a closed position and an open position in which the brush bar is entirely exposed from above and in front when the upper housing portion is in the open position, wherein the brush bar is driven by a drive mechanism comprising a series of gears, wherein the brush bar is rotated without any component passing around the brush bar, and wherein no portion of the drive mechanism is positioned above the brush bar such that the brush bar is removable from above and in front of the drive mechanism without disturbing the positioning of the drive mechanism.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A head for a suction cleaner, the head comprising:
a lower housing portion;
an upper housing portion movable relative to the lower housing portion between a
closed position for use and an open position in which airflow passages within the head are
opened from above;
a rotatably mounted tool element which is entirely exposed and removable from above
and in front when the upper housing portion is in the open position; and
a drive mechanism that includes a drive belt comprising an internal and an external
surface wherein the drive belt does not pass around the tool element, and the tool element is
driven by the external surface of the drive belt, wherein the drive belt defines a loop and the
brush bar is positioned outside of and adjacent to the loop such that no portion of the drive
mechanism is positioned above the brush bar such that the brush bar may be removed from
above and in front of the drive belt without disturbing the positioning of the drive mechanism.

32. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 31 further
comprising a pinion that drives a toothed external surface of the drive belt, wherein the drive
belt does not pass around the pinion.

33. (Previously Presented) A head for a suction cleaner according to claim 32 wherein
the pinion is driven by an electric motor or turbine.